

CTJ/RMT  
ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DIST. OF TX.  
FT. WORTH DIVISION

2009 OCT -8 PM 1:48

CLERK OF COURT

---

BELL AEROSPACE SERVICES, INC.  
1305 Airport Freeway, Suite 321  
Bedford, TX 76021

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE,  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301,

and

DEFENSE CONTRACT  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY,  
AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS DIVISION,  
495 Summer Street  
Boston, MA 02210-2184

Defendants.

---

**4 - 09 CV - 591 - Y**

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Bell Aerospace Services, Inc. (“Bell Aero”), by counsel, files this Complaint against the United States Department of Defense and the Defense Contract Management Agency, Aeronautical Systems Division, and states as follows:

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This action arises from the recent decision of Defendant Defense Contract Management Agency, Aeronautical Systems Division (“DCMA”), a subagency of Defendant United States Department of Defense (“DOD”), to release certain confidential information (“Information”) pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request that relates to Bell

Aero and its business division US Helicopter (“USH”). Bell Aero requests that the Court declare that the Information in question constitutes trade secrets and/or confidential commercial information that is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4 and prohibited from disclosure by the Trade Secrets Act, hold unlawful and set aside DCMA’s decision to release such Information to the requester, and permanently enjoin DOD and DCMA from releasing the Information. Bell Aero is not seeking a preliminary injunction at this time because the applicable regulations prohibit release of the Information until the Court so orders, *see* 32 C.F.R. § 286.25(e) & 286.23(h), and DCMA has represented to Bell Aero that it will not release the Information so long as Bell Aero initiates this action by October 8, 2009.

#### PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Bell Aero is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 1305 Airport Freeway, Bedford, Texas. Bell Aero is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. USH is an unincorporated business division of Bell Aero with its principal place of business in Ozark, Alabama.

3. Defendant DOD is a Department of the Executive Branch of the United States Government. DOD is responsible for and controls the DCMA and DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division. DOD can be served at 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301 and through the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, Civil Process Clerk, 801 Cherry Street, Suite 1700, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 and Attorney General of the United States, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20530-0001.

4. Defendant Defense Contract Management Agency, Aeronautical Systems Division, is a regional office of DCMA with its headquarters at 495 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts. DCMA has custody and control of the Information at issue, and issued the letter to Bell Aero in which it proposed to release that Information to the requester. Bell Aero is not

entitled to appeal the Aeronautical Systems Division's action within DCMA or DOD, and has therefore exhausted its administrative remedies. DCMA can be served at Aeronautical Systems Division, 495 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210-2184 and through the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, Civil Process Clerk, 801 Cherry Street, Suite 1700, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 and Attorney General of the United States, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20530-0001.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the action arises under the laws of the United States, including FOIA and the Trade Secrets Act. Plaintiff also invokes this Court's authority to issue declaratory judgments under 28 U.S.C. § 2201-2202. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (e).

#### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

6. Bell Aero, through USH, provides helicopter repair, maintenance, and overhaul services for the U.S. armed forces and domestic government agencies. USH also sells those services to commercial customers and to foreign governments, both directly and under the Foreign Military Sales program.

7. The bulk of USH's business is the refurbishment of single-engine and twin-engine Huey (UH-1) helicopters, which involves refurbishing existing aircraft, providing customer-requested upgrades, and installing upgrade "kits" provided by Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. These activities include refurbishment of all aircraft components, sheet metal repair, rewire, avionics installation, painting, and reassembly processes. USH is also qualified to provide repair, maintenance, and overhaul services on commercial helicopters, including the Bell 206B, Bell 206L, Bell 212, and Bell 412, and the U.S. Army's OH-58 helicopter.

8. USH operates in a very competitive marketplace and has several well-established competitors. A substantial percentage of the helicopter repair, maintenance, and overhaul work for which USH competes is awarded to these competitors by USH's customers.

9. In addition to the above competitors, a start-up company in Alabama has recently been established to compete directly with USH. Within the past year, approximately 15 people have left USH to work for this new USH competitor titled "U.S. Aero Services." There is a lawsuit pending between USH and U.S. Aero Services in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, and USH has alleged that several of the former USH employees illegally obtained information and documentation that has allowed U.S. Aero Services to go into competition with USH.

#### **FOIA REQUEST**

10. The previous President of Bell Aero, Mr. Michael Prieto, was terminated from Bell Aero in June 2008. He filed a lawsuit against Bell Aero and its parent companies in November 2008 alleging that he had been terminated for attempting to investigate labor mischarging and other alleged improprieties at Bell Aero and USH, and that his termination was wrongful and in violation of Texas law. He is seeking to recover many different categories of damages. Mr. Prieto is represented by the law firm of Gillespie, Rozen, Watsky & Jones, P.C.

11. On April 6, 2009, the law firm of Gillespie, Rozen, Watsky & Jones, P.C. submitted a FOIA request to the DCMA. This request sought "Records of investigations into contracts with US Helicopter, a division of Bell Aerospace Services, Inc. occurring within the last 3 years. This includes any audits that revealed potential mischarging on government contracts."

12. Mr. Prieto has admitted that he is, or has been, consulting with U.S. Aero.

13. On information and belief, the FOIA request submitted by the Gillespie firm is an attempt by Mr. Prieto, though his law firm, to get documents from the DCMA for use in connection with his private wrongful termination lawsuit against Bell Aero and its parent companies, and/or for use by Mr. Prieto in consulting with U.S. Aero to assist that company in its ongoing attempts to compete with USH.

#### **DCMA'S FIRST FOIA LETTER**

14. On June 12, 2009, DCMA notified Bell Aero by letter that it had received a FOIA request seeking Information about investigations concerning USH from the prior three years. DCMA stated that it had determined that certain DCMA documents, Defense Contract Audit Agency ("DCAA") audit reports, and related documents contained Information that was responsive to this FOIA request and could be released to the requestor. DCMA stated that it did not believe that any of the documents contained confidential or proprietary information, but acknowledged that Exemption 4 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), could be applicable. Exemption 4 prohibits release of a private party's trade secrets, and also prohibits release of its confidential commercial information where disclosure of such Information would impair the government's access to necessary Information or would likely cause the private party substantial competitive harm. DCMA directed Bell Aero to submit a detailed justification for the withholding of the documents under Exemption 4.

15. Bell Aero responded on July 22, 2009 and sent a more detailed response on August 13, 2009, demonstrating that all of the documents at issue constitute trade secrets and/or confidential commercial information exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4. Bell Aero's August 13 letter was supported by declarations from Bell Aero and USH personnel stating that release of the Information that DCMA proposed to release would cause Bell Aero and USH

substantial competitive harm and would impede the Government's ability to obtain the same or similar information from Bell Aero/USH or other contractors.

#### **DCMA'S SECOND FOIA LETTER**

16. DCMA sent a second letter to Bell Aero on August 6, 2009, proposing to release additional documents responsive to the same FOIA request. DCMA again acknowledged that Exemption 4 could apply and directed Bell Aero to submit a justification under Exemption 4 for withholding the documents in question.

17. On August 21, 2009, Bell Aero responded to DCMA's August 6 letter, explaining that all of the documents identified were trade secrets and/or confidential commercial information that is exempt from release under Exemption 4. Bell Aero's August 21 letter was supported by declarations identifying the competitive harm to Bell Aero that would result from release and explaining how the Government's access to necessary Information would be impaired. Bell Aero's letter was also accompanied by proposed redactions of the documents that removed all trade secrets and proprietary information while preserving information that could be publicly disclosed under the FOIA.

#### **DCMA'S REJECTION OF BELL AERO'S RESPONSES**

18. On September 28, 2009, DCMA (through its Aeronautical Systems Division) rejected Bell Aero's responses and stated that it would release a significant portion of the Information that it had previously determined to be responsive to the FOIA request, claiming that the Information did not fall within the scope of Exemption 4. DCMA did agree to redact certain portions of the Information it had originally proposed to release, but did not redact significant amounts of trade secret and confidential information. DCMA further informed Bell Aero that it would not release the documents if Bell Aero brought suit on or before October 8, 2009.

**COUNT I**  
**(RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW)**

19. Bell Aero hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-18 above.
20. Bell Aero's responses to DCMA, including the declarations submitted therewith, establish that the Information that DCMA proposes to release constitutes trade secrets and/or confidential commercial information that is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1905. DCMA's decision to release the Information is not in accordance with law under Section 706 of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706.

**COUNT II**  
**(ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS AGENCY ACTION)**

21. Bell Aero hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-18 above.
22. Bell Aero's responses to DCMA, including the declarations submitted therewith, establish that the Information that DCMA proposes to release constitutes trade secrets and/or confidential commercial information that is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1905. DCMA's decision to release the Information at issue is arbitrary and capricious under Section 706 of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706.

**COUNT III**  
**(DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ACT)**

23. Bell Aero hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-18 above.
24. This Court has authority pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201-2202 to declare that the Information that DCMA proposes to release constitutes trade secrets and/or confidential commercial information and is protected from disclosure by FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1905.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Bell Aero respectfully requests the Court to:

- (A) Hold unlawful and set aside DCMA's decision to release the Information at issue;
- (B) Declare that the Information at issue constitutes trade secrets and/or confidential commercial information that is protected from disclosure by FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1905;
- (C) Permanently enjoin DOD, DCMA, and their officers, agents and employees, and those acting in concert with them, from disclosing the Information at issue; and
- (D) Order such other and further relief as may be deemed just and proper by the Court.

Dated: October 8, 2009

Respectfully submitted,



J. Frank Kinsel, Jr.  
State Bar No. 11488700  
David B. Dowell  
State Bar No. 06077950  
John S. Polzer  
State Bar No. 24042609

of

Cantey Hanger LLP  
600 W. 6th St. #300  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 877-2800 (telephone)  
(817) 877-2807 (fax)

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF  
BELL AEROSPACE SERVICES, INC.

Of Counsel:

Robert K Huffman  
Peter B. Hutt II  
AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP  
1333 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20033  
(202) 887-4000 (telephone)  
(202) 887-4288 (fax)

**CTJ/RMT**  
SIS 44 Rev. 2/00  
**ORIGINAL**

The US 44 Civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. Except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

RECEIVED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
FORT WORTH DIVISION  
CLERK OF COURT

### I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Bell Aerospace Services, Inc.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Tarrant

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

### DEFENDANTS

United States Department of Defense, Defense Contract Management Agency, Aeronautical Systems Division

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**4 - 09 CV - 591 - Y**

### II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

### III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES

(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)  
(For Diversity Cases Only)

Citizen of This State	PTF	DEF	Citizen of Another State	PTF	DEF
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Nation
				<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

### IV. NATURE OF SUIT

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FOREFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage		<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage		<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 390 Other Personal Injury		<input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 Other		<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability			<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise			<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ft)	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other		<input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights		<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 780 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	

### V. ORIGIN

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from another district (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judge
---	---	--	---	--	---	---

### VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
**5 U.S.C. Sec. 552**

Brief description of cause:  
**Declaratory Judgment**

### VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION  
UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND:  Yes  No

### VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

10/08/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # FWD 083

AMOUNT 350

APPLYING IFF

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

*Daniel B. Howell*

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

*✓*

Civil Filing Notice - Fort Worth Division

CIVIL ACTION NO:	<b>4 - 09 CV - 591 - Y</b>	
This case has been assigned to District Judge: _____		
(Complete if applicable) TRANSFERRED FROM: _____		DATE FILED: _____

Civil cases are assigned to a judge by random draw. A docket clerk for each judge maintains the recording of documents filed with the Clerk. A complete list of phone numbers for both the judges' chambers and the docket clerks is provided.

Judge	Court Settings	Pleadings Filed
(A) Judge John H. McBRYDE Even Cases: 850-6652 Odd Cases: 850-6653	(817)850-6650	(817)850-6611
(Y) Judge Terry R. MEANS	(817)850-6673	(817)850-6612
(BE) Magistrate Judge Charles BLEIL	(817)850-6690	(817)850-6697

For access to local rules, attorney admission information, frequently asked questions, common forms, filing instructions, and records information, please visit our web site at [www.txnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.txnd.uscourts.gov). To speak to someone in the district clerk's office, please call (817) 850-6601.

To receive electronic access to court docket sheets and filed documents, contact the PACER Service Center at [www.pacer.pcs.uscourts.gov](http://www.pacer.pcs.uscourts.gov) or by phone at 1-800-676-6856 for a log-in and password.